Application No.: 10/596,626 Docket No.: 01641/0204258-US0

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-12 and 15-18 are pending in this application

II. <u>Election Requirement</u>

The Examiner made a restriction requirement between the following inventions:

Group I: Claim 1-10 and 15-18, drawn to Microlithography projection objective, with at least one specific lens; and;

Group II: Claim 11 and 12, drawn to an end plate as can be used in a microlithography projection objective.

In response, Applicant elects Group I (claims 1-10 and 15-18) for further prosecution in this application.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: December 15, 2008 Respectfully submitted,

Melvin C. Garner

Registration No.: 26,272

DARBY & DARBY P.C.

P.O. Box 770

Church Street Station

New York, New York 10008-0770

(212) 527-7700

(212) 527-7701 (Fax)

Attorneys/Agents For Applicant